

Research Vessel Montague Replacement**FY2003 Request: \$600,000**
Reference No: 35884**AP/AL:** Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Cordova
Election District: Delta, Prince William Sound
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2005**Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement**Contact:** Doug Mecum
Contact Phone: (907)465-4210**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This CIP request will provide funding to replace the R/V Montague. This vessel fulfills research needs in the waters of Prince William Sound that are vital to the conservation-based management of salmon, herring, sablefish, pollock, shrimp and crab resources. Stability testing of the R/V Montague conducted in 1988 indicated the vessel was operating on a thin margin of safety. Significant changes in weight distribution and operational loading improved the safety margin, but compromised its ability to perform some of its necessary duties. This request will support the purchase of a new vessel, combined with the language authority to use the proceeds from the sale of the R/V Montague towards the purchase price.

Funding:

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Gen Fund	\$600,000						\$600,000
Total:	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Research Vessel Montague Replacement

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Replacement of the R/V Montague, research vessel stationed in Cordova, is urgently needed. This vessel fulfills numerous research needs in the waters of Prince William Sound that are vital to the conservation based management of salmon, herring, sablefish, pollock, shrimp and crab resources. The R/V Montague is a 58 foot purse seine vessel constructed in 1968. Stability testing of the R/V Montague conducted in 1988 indicated the vessel was operating on a very thin margin of safety. Significant changes in weight distribution and operational loading improved the safety margin, but compromised its ability to perform some of its necessary duties. In 1998-99 the R/V Montague was re-powered. Despite extensive consideration of stability in planning this job, the Montague ended up losing 10 to 15% of its stability margin, resulting in further limitations of its utility.

A replacement vessel is needed that would have 1) expanded capacity to house scientific crews in quarters above the waterline, 2) ability to perform test fishing operations using purse seines, long lines, pots, trawls and dredges, and 3) a fish hold with refrigerated circulation system and capacity to carry volumes of fish consistent with the sampling programs.

Accompanying language in the appropriation bill would allow the proceeds from the sale of this vessel to be used in conjunction with this funding for a replacement vessel.